DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 162 919 SO 011 226

TITLE Lock into Crowds.
INSTITUTION Christian Education Movement, London (England).
PUB DATE 78
NOTE 30p.; For related documents, see SO 011 227-228 ; Photographs may reproduce poorly
AVAILABLE FROM Christian Education Movement, 2 Chester House, Pages Lane, London N10 1PR, England ($1.40, paper cover)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Access to Education; City Problems; *Comparative Education; Developed Nations; Developing Nations; Discussion (Teaching Technique); Elementary Education; Futures (of Society); *Group Dynamics; Group Experience; *Groups; Housing; *Human Living; Learning Activities; Medical Services; Population Growth; Poverty Research; *Quality of Life; Rural to Urban Migration; Social Change; Social Problems; Social Studies; Teaching Guides; Urban Areas; Urban Population
IDENTIFIERS *Crowding (Personal Space); Great Britain

ABSTRACT

This booklet is designed to help British teachers introduce concepts of crowds to young students. Elementary school students will better understand issues of crowd behavior such as rural to urban migration and crowding in urban areas if they realize that all crowds are composed of individual human beings. Teachers can help students become familiar with the nature of crowds by encouraging them to participate in class discussions and individual research projects on topics such as crowded cities, housing a crowd, crowds at play, crowds drawn together for political or military purposes, participation in special in-crowds, and entertainment crowds. Students can be directed to discuss questions regarding disadvantages of city living, reasons people leave rural areas to move to the city, the right of people to live wherever they want, and the role of government and charity organizations in providing services to poor people. Students can also be involved in activities such as observing crowds in streets, shops, buses, and places of entertainment; map and globe exercises; and analyzing statements about crowds by public officials and media people. Teachers can provide the necessary background information for students on these and other crowd-related topics by reviewing with them factual material presented in the document. (DE)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED162919

LOOK into CROWDS

NOV 0 3 1978

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Harry Lindy

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

ISBN
0 905022 37-8

LOOK into CROWDS

Autumn 1978

LOOK BOOKS are published by C.E.M. as part of its service to schools and to the youth service.

Look Books are intended to help with enquiries into topics of importance for the world we live and grow in. They provide information and ideas as a basis from which young readers may begin their own search, to make up their own minds. Some indication of possible 'follow up' is given.

LOOK INTO CROWDS is written and compiled by DANNY SULLIVAN, C.E.M.'s Regional Secretary for South East England and a former teacher.
The opinions expressed in this book are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Movement or its members.

CONTENTS

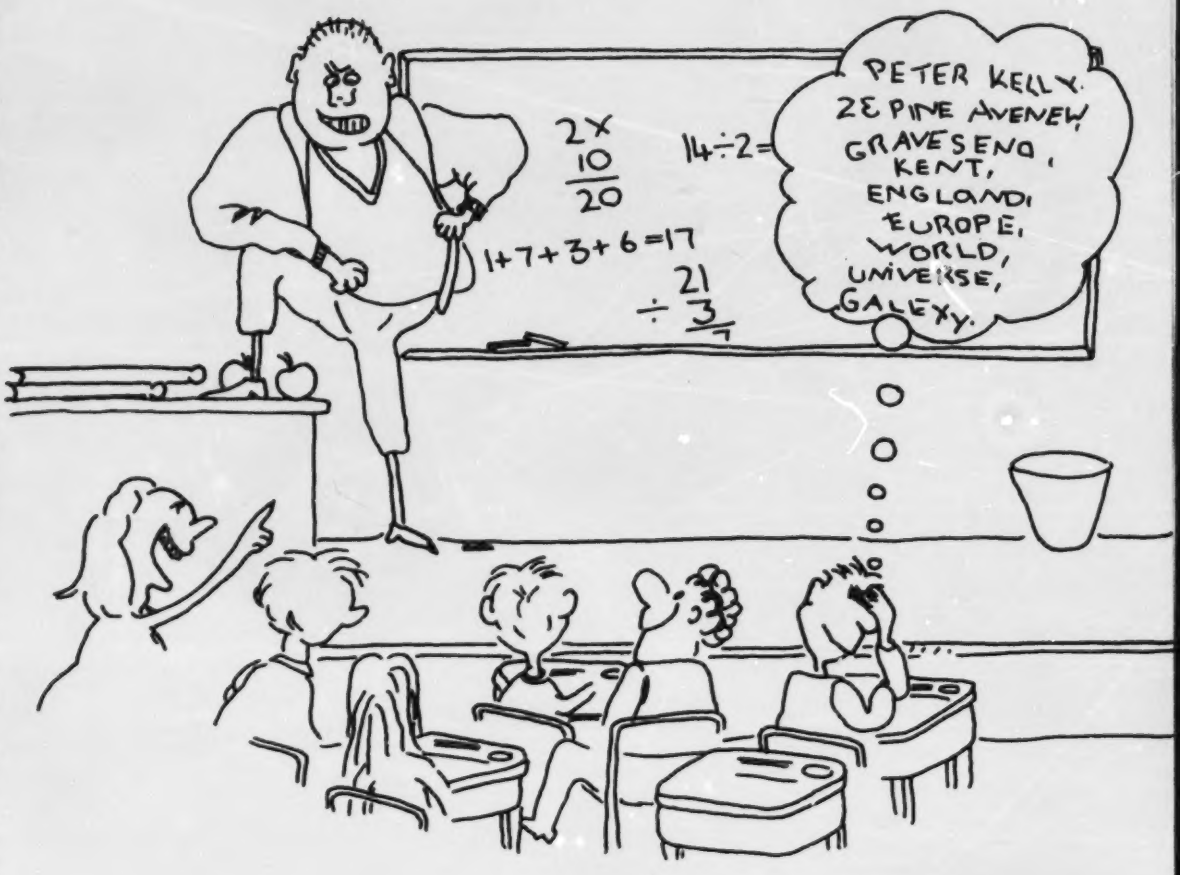
Introduction	3
Getting involved	5
Crowded cities - the developed world	6
Crowded cities - the developing world	10
Housing a crowd	15
Crowds at play	20
Crowds on the march	24
The In-crowd	28
Acknowledgments and addresses	31

© Copyright C.E.M.

PUBLISHED BY The Christian Education Movement
2 Chester House, Pages Lane,
LONDON N10 1PR 01-444 8383

Printed by The Good News Press Limited. Tel. Ongar 2106

INTRODUCTION



We all wonder, at some time in our lives, how we fit into this big, wide world of ours - like the fellow in the cartoon. Instead of writing our Maths or listening to our teacher we may write and think about this universe that we belong to.

This world of ours is full of crowds of people - from our next-door neighbours to people living thousands of miles away.

This book is going to look at different aspects of crowds. The important thing to remember about crowds is that they are made up of real live people just like ourselves.

GETTING INVOLVED

During the time when you are using this book, look out for crowds. Take especial notice of people in the streets, shops, buses, queues, places of entertainment and homes you visit. Note whether they look happy, bored, interested, angry or resigned - do they look to have room about them or do they look crowded? How much room do you need in a crowd, in a street, at a disco, on a beach, or at home? In what ways is the crowd a good or a bad thing?

With a friend think about the different ways we use the words 'crowd', 'crowded', 'crowding'. When we use them we sometimes mean something pleasant and at other times something unpleasant. Make two lists of their uses, one headed PLEASANT, the other UNPLEASANT. Which is longer?

For example:

PLEASANT	UNPLEASANT
crowd of friends	so crowded there was no room to swim
a crowd watching Punch & Judy	I couldn't get near for the crowd
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

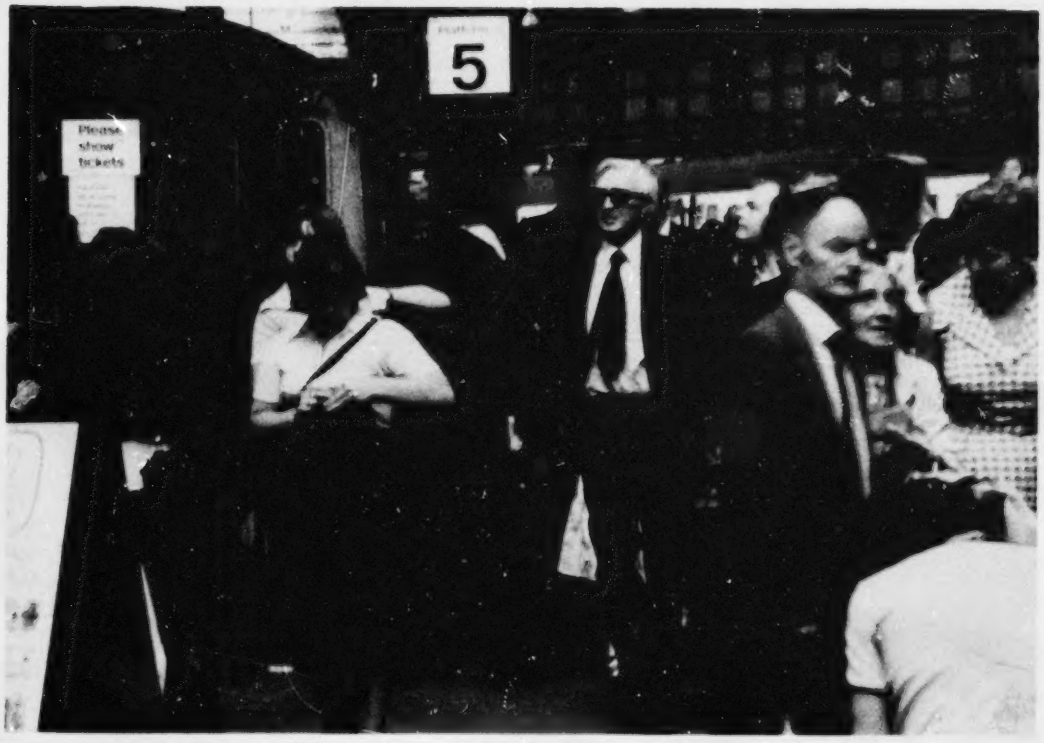
CROWDED CITIES - THE RICH WORLD

In 1960 there were 109 cities in the world with more than a million people living in them. By 1975 there were 191 such cities. By the year 2000 the number will be even greater; how old will you be then?

If you do not live in a city perhaps you have seen a film of one on T.V. or at the pictures. It may have been an attractive film, too. The hustle and bustle of city life, interesting monuments and places to visit. Tourists walking around eager to buy souvenirs and spend their money.

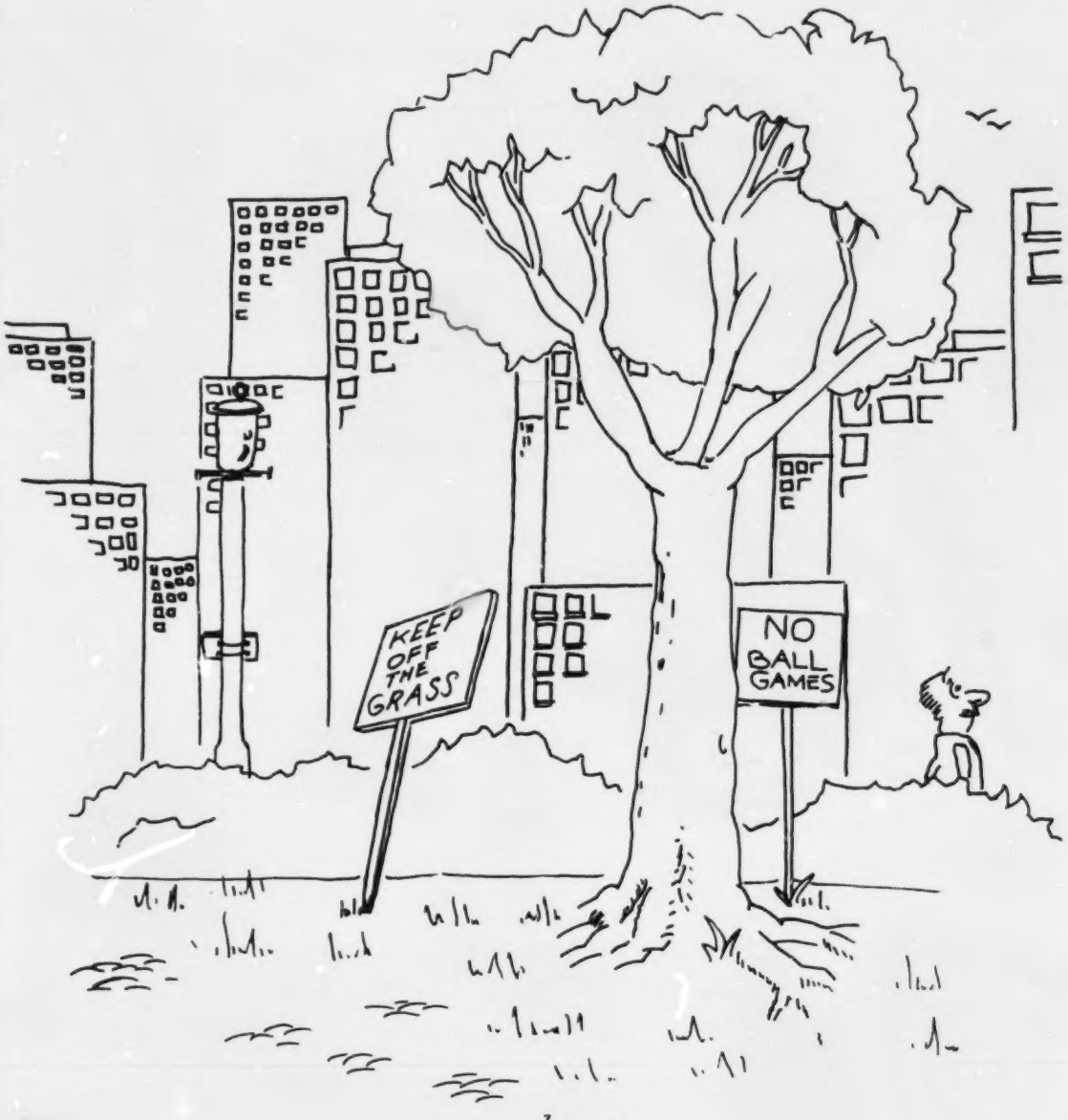
There is another way to look at the city. Take what is called the rush hour - that is, early morning or late afternoon. You will find hundreds of thousands of people on the move. Traffic jams, the noise of car horns and engines, pollution from exhaust fumes. People dashing about as if they had no time to take their time. Crowded buses, crowded trains and a crowded underground.

The way people rush about in cities it might be hard to believe they are going anywhere! However, at the end of the day most are heading for home. For crowds of people the city is not home but a place where they come to work. They travel to the city to work in factories, office blocks, hospitals, shops, transport services and so on.



As a result of this the city is not only crowded with people but also with buildings. In the city you will find mile after mile of buildings surrounding you. Buildings of all shapes and sizes - reaching to the sky and closely huddled together.

Millions of people in the developed world make their homes in cities. This may be where they live out the whole of their lives - surrounded by crowds of other people and crowds of buildings. Living in a crowded city may present you with certain difficulties.



TALES FROM THREE CITIES

In the city of Tokyo breathing is a problem. The pollution from heavy traffic and from industry is so great that there are booths in the city where you can connect yourself to an oxygen supply. A traffic policeman in Tokyo might often be seen wearing an oxygen mask.

In the city of New York the summer months are always a cause for concern. Hospitals and doctors become worried - so many high buildings close together, so many people crowded together. Add to this smog from factories and the humid atmosphere and you have great dangers to the good health of the population. The New York police don't like the summer months either. They believe that so many people living in such a confined space plus the irritatingly hot weather lead more easily to loss of temper and violence. A heatwave in New York almost always means an increase in the number of murders.

In the city of London a young man from Belfast who had come to London to live and work decided to stay no longer than a few weeks. He said he was returning home - to one of the most troubled parts of Belfast - because he was lonely. Belfast might be a troubled city but at least he felt known - people were interested in him and knew who he was - so this city was home for him. He said London was terrifying - crowded with millions of people and yet you could be all alone. A great number of people in cities feel this isolation. They may live in modern multi-storey blocks where it is difficult to get to know your neighbours, where there is hardly any space for children to play and where, if you are old or ill you may not be able to leave your 11th storey home.

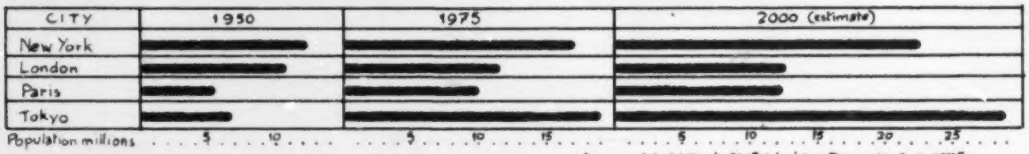
THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

Despite all the difficulties, cities still mean places of adventure and fun to many people, places where life will be more lively and less boring.

For millions of people, their part of the city is home. Many young people who live outside the big cities leave home for various reasons and head for a city. They are attracted by the vision of bright lights, crowds of people, and having a good time. They may have heard that you can earn big money in the city. They arrive full of excitement and hope - and then they may find no work, no friends and no reasonable place to live. They may end up wandering the streets looking for work and a place to live - one among millions.

Points for Thought & Discussion

(A) Here is a table showing the population of some cities in the developed world in 1950, 1975 and what it is estimated it will be in the year 2000.



Source: World Bank Staff Working Paper No 209, 1975

(i) What are the difficulties these cities will face in the 1980's and 1990's?
(ii) Can you think of any way these difficulties might be eased or solved?

(B) If you don't live in a city have you ever been attracted to the idea of living in one? What have you felt were the city's attractions?

(C) If you live in a city or one of its suburbs what do you find are:
(i) the advantages
(ii) the disadvantages.

(D) Someone once said that "multi-storey flats are filing cabinets for people". What do you think this means?

(E) How do you think life could be improved for people who find the city lonely? What makes a place 'home'?

(F) There are organisations in cities which try to help people who find city life difficult. The Samaritans is one of these. What can you find out about the Samaritans and other city organisations which try to help people?

(G) When we use the word 'developed' we usually mean really good progress has been achieved. In view of some of the problems our modern cities have do you think it is right to call them 'developed'?

CROWDED CITIES - THE POOR WORLD

Arrive in the centre of a city in the developing world and you might think there is little actual difference from a city in the developed world. Crowds of people, busy streets and busy traffic. Tourists, looking for ways to pass their time and spend their money.

However, look a little deeper and you may find a different picture altogether, a city overflowing with millions of people. These people are faced not only with the question of how to live among a vast crowd but are often faced with the problem - how shall we survive?

In the developing world people move in great numbers from their villages to the cities. This is for various reasons:

Medical Care: People feel they will have more chance of medical care for themselves and their children. Most doctors prefer the cities.

Work: People feel they will have more chance of finding a job if they come to the city. Most employers prefer the cities.

Education: Parents move from the villages to the city in the hope of finding an education for their children. Cities have more schools as well as having colleges and universities. Most teachers prefer the cities.

It would be good to think that these hopes and dreams of the people were realised once they reached the cities. However, this simply is not the case. Often all that the people find is unemployment, boredom and a great struggle to survive. The city is probably already overcrowded and finding nowhere to live they may drift to the outskirts.

CROWDED SHANTY TOWNS

Travel to the outskirts of the city and you will find crowds of people living in huts made from bits of boxes, sacking or tin cans beaten flat - not particularly safe homes. Such areas as these have become known as shanty towns and here millions of people in the developing world are trying to make a life for themselves. The children instead of being able to have an education often spend their time, like their Mums and Dads, looking for odd jobs or even begging.

As the shanty towns become bigger and bigger so the living conditions become worse and worse. Water and electricity supplies are not always working - if they exist. In these conditions many babies never survive despite some kind of medical care. As well as being part of an overcrowded shanty town a whole family from grandparents to grandchildren may be trying to live in one little hut.

It is not only in shanty towns that crowds of people may be living. It is estimated that about 1 million people live on the pavements in the city of Calcutta. Here people are born, live and die simply because there may be nowhere else to go. The population of Calcutta in 1975 was 9 millions. In the year 2000 it is expected to be 21 millions.

HOW MANY IS ENOUGH ?

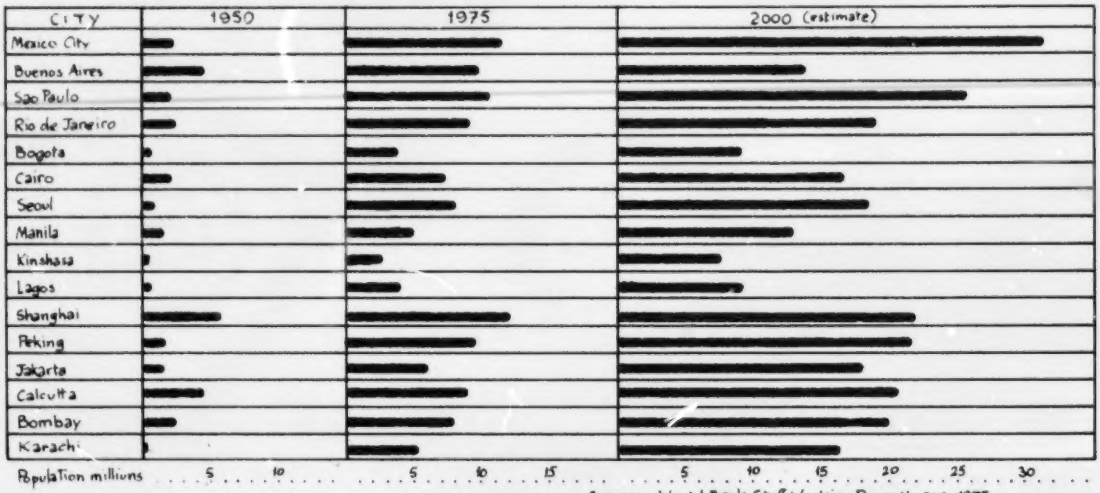
We have seen that people in the developing world may come to the city full of hope. That hope is soon shattered. There just seems to be

too many people and the cities cannot cope. Some people feel that the answer to too many people - especially in the developing world - is for parents to limit the number of children they have. They feel this is vital and makes good sense when you realise how overcrowded our world is becoming. In Hong Kong, for example, it is actually the Government that strongly encourages parents to have no more than two children.

Other people feel parents should be free to have as many children as they wish. Along with others such people might also want to see a lot more justice and generosity shown from the rich to the poor world. Also, in the developing world babies die in greater numbers. So a mother may have many children because she would want to see at least some of them still living in her old age. However, despite the problems of overcrowding many people cope with life and can be happy and cheerful. Life is not always sad and full of problems.

Points for Thought & Discussion

(A) Here is a table showing the population of cities in the developing world in 1950, 1975 and an estimate of their populations in the year 2000.



Source: World Bank Staff Working Paper No 209, 1975

(i) Can you find which countries the above cities are in?
(ii) Using also the table from Chapter I would you say that the population of cities in the developed countries is increasing in the same proportion as that of cities in developing countries.

(B) "Families should not move from their villages to the cities". Do you think that this is a fair suggestion? How would you stop them?

(C) Would you agree that we might run out of space for people in our world and that we might run out of food for all the people of our world? What suggestions could you make to try and solve such p oblems?

(D) (i) There is a saying - "Charity begins at home". This means look after your own people first. What would you say to someone who said that the millions of people in the developing world should be left to look after themselves? If they looked after themselves, what would happen to our food, drink and clothes?
(ii) "The world is the home of humanity". What do you think this means and would you agree?

(E) When we say 'developing' we usually mean progress is being made. With the problems Calcutta has could you say it is truly 'developing'?

HOUSING A CROWD

When there is a major disaster somewhere in the world T.V. and the newspapers are very quick to inform us of what has happened. If it has been an earthquake or famine there will be appeals for help and we may see film of those in need. There are organisations like Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save The Children which can very speedily provide help.

In Britain, too, there are people with great needs and there are organisations which try to be of some help.

There is a whole mass of people in Britain with housing needs and a charity like Shelter exists to try and help them.

Some facts from Shelter about housing in Britain may surprise you.

<u>In Britain in 1977 there were</u>:

1. 52,000 families who declared themselves homeless.
2. 800,000 families living in houses that had been declared "unfit to live in".
3. a) 7,000,000 people living in bad housing conditions - 1 million of these being children. "Bad housing" can mean too many people to a room, no hot running water, no inside toilet, damp in the bedrooms, old and decaying buildings.
   b) 700,000 houses lying empty.
4. 1 in 5 of all children who started school had lived in overcrowded situations.

When we talked about crowded cities we saw the great difficulties that arose when millions of people try and live together in a confined space. In the same way Shelter would suggest that one family's house could be overcrowded and then that presents problems for all the members.

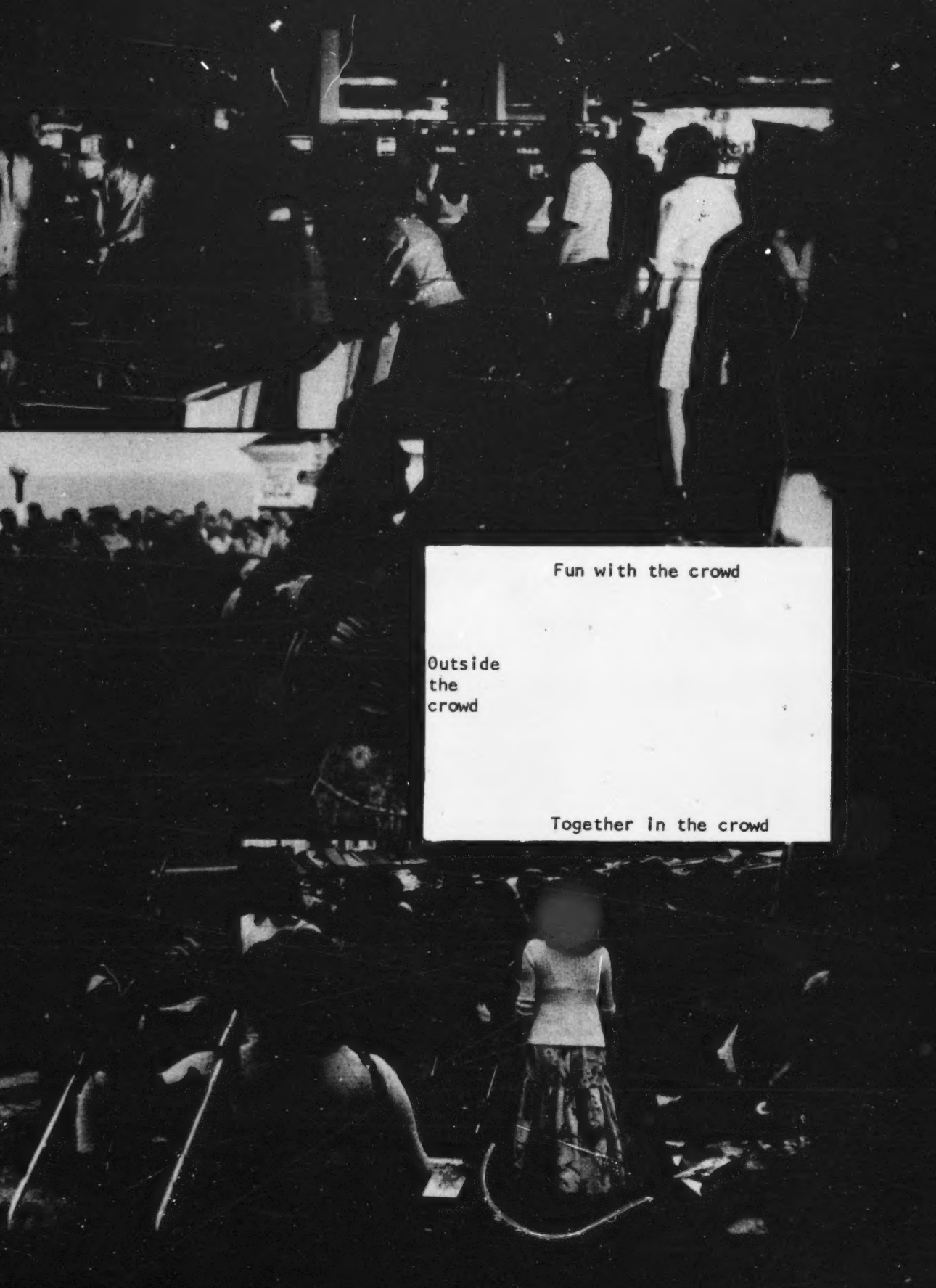
Imagine a family trying to live in a two roomed flat. There may be little chance for the children to move about and play - especially those who are not yet school age. Parents may try and keep the place clean and tidy - which is not easy if there is damp. Meals have to be cooked and all sorts of household chores seen to. There may be nowhere a child can sit and do homework in peace.

Shelter has found that life becomes very difficult for adults and children if they have to live in cramped, poor, housing conditions. The people who have to live like this don't need to find out - they know.

Part of a crowd

Wanting
a
crowd

Attracting a crowd


Fun with the crowd
Outside
the
crowd
Together in the crowd

CAUSES AND EFFECTS

Why such crowds of people in Britain with housing needs? Shelter has various replies:-

A) Living in cramped conditions and/or bad housing can be the cause of people not getting on very well together. This may lead them to leave and try and find better housing elsewhere. If not successful in their search they may end up homeless altogether.

B) When it is difficult for a father to find work he may feel he has to move his family to another part of the country where he has more chance of a job. This often happens at a time when very many people are out of work. However, moving away to look for work is no guarantee of finding it. Neither is it a guarantee there will be a house for the family.

C) Fewer houses were built in 1977 than in any year since the Second World War. In England and Wales alone there are more than 1 million families on council house waiting lists. Some of these families have to wait for a house and a cut back in the number of houses built means an even longer wait.

The National Children's Bureau and Shelter have found that living in cramped and poor housing conditions has bad effects on children. They may find it difficult to concentrate at school if they have not slept well. There may be nowhere at home where they can do homework in peace and quiet. They may be more liable to dodge school and find themselves in trouble with the police. Their mental and physical health may suffer because of their living conditions.

Life is not easy for the grown ups either. Living in poor conditions or being homeless for a long period of time can lead to people becoming very unhappy indeed. Shelter would feel that local councils and the Government itself could do much more for such people.

Points for Thought and Discussion

A) Shelter may feel that local councils and the Government could do more for people with housing needs. However, it also receives letters which say: "These people should learn to look after themselves."
What do you think of these two differing opinions?

B) A housing official said to the Dad of a homeless family: "The trouble with people like you is that you put your kids before everything else". Do you think the Dad was right or wrong?

C) 7,000,000 people living in bad housing conditions and 700,000 houses lying empty. Ten times 700,000 = 7,000,000. So if you put 10 people from bad housing conditions into an empty house then you will have solved the problem. What do you think of this solution?

D) Some people say it is not just houses we need but <u>good</u> houses. What would you call a good house? Design one and say where you would build it.

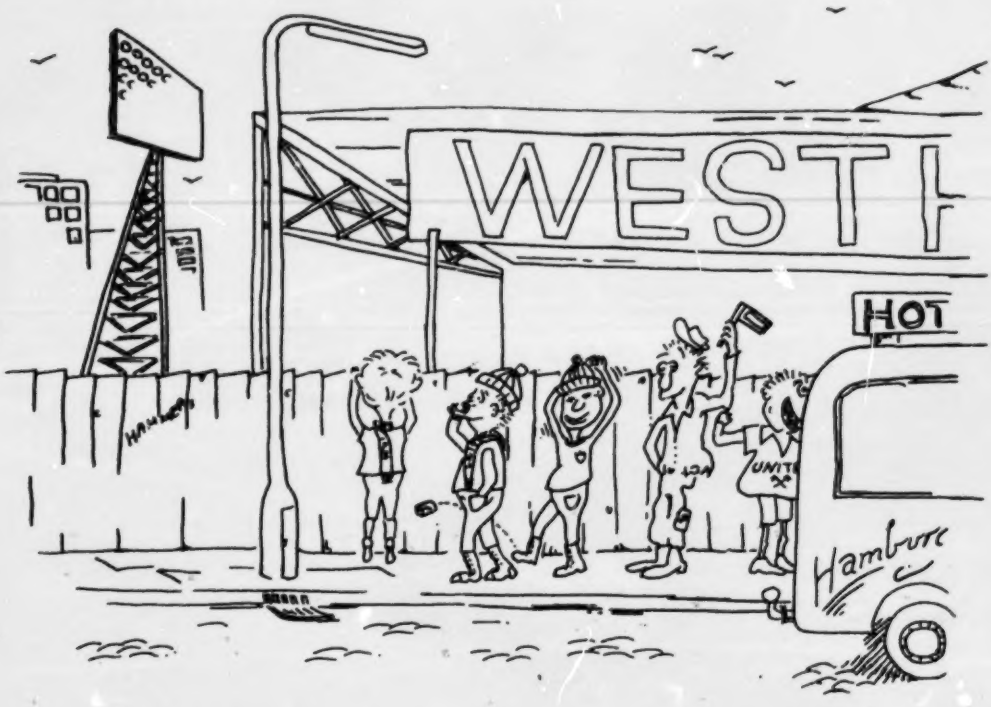
CROWDS AT PLAY

'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' - so the old saying goes. People enjoy being free to do things they are interested in - whether it be watching their favourite sport, going camping or going to a concert.

When people have a break and decide to take part in some leisure pursuit then they will find that there are many others of the same mind. If you and your family decided to head for the coast on a hot summer's Saturday you would hardly expect the train to be empty or to have the motorway to yourselves!

There may be special problems when large crowds of people come together for leisure and entertainment. When 200,000 people went to see and hear the American singer Bob Dylan in July 1978 not all of them could be sure of even seeing the stage! However, all those present seemed happy enough just to be there and some even stayed behind till the next day and helped with the tidying up of the mass of litter.

GOING TO THE MATCH



If you were one of 30,000 people who attended a football match between two rival teams you might not find the atmosphere so relaxed and happy.

As well as the 30,000 spectators there would be hundreds of police present. There would, in fact, be a highly organised police operation. They might have cameras studying different sections of the crowd - ready to pick out trouble as it arises. A goal is scored. One crowd of fans may attack rival fans. Some may invade the pitch. The match may be held up while mounted policemen try to clear the playing area. Fans may be arrested for fighting and end up missing most of the match.

Football is not the only sport to be affected by crowd trouble but it seems to be the one which receives the most publicity. On the other hand, there are other sports - speedway, gymnastics, athletics and cricket, for example - which do not seem to require as much attention and worry as football does.

People are very divided on what the reasons for this are and on how we can put a stop to trouble at sporting events. A young man who was arrested for fighting at a football match told the Court: "It seems to be being part of the big crowd which does it to me. I seem to forget myself because I don't usually behave like that."

HOLIDAYS AND HOLY DAYS

It's not just to watch sport that large crowds of people gather together in their leisure time. Many people go on holiday and thus places like sea-side resorts become really crowded. In places like these there seems to be a happy atmosphere - if it's not raining! People seem to want to relax and enjoy themselves - they become friendly and get to know one another, even on crowded beaches! Seaside resorts offer plenty of entertainments and shopping facilities. These facilities may be open till late at night so there is often plenty for the crowds of holidaymakers to do.

Great crowds of people often come together, too, to take part in special festivals. Again these seem to be times when people want to relax and enjoy themselves and be friendly. However, it would not be true to say that such festivals are always trouble free.

People living on their own have often said that T.V. and radio have helped them feel they belong to a larger crowd. Blind people listen to the radio a lot and they say this makes them feel in touch with others. Old people on their own often say television brings others into their home and that this way they don't feel so lonely.

Often people use their free time to attend a place of religious worship. Thus you may see a crowd attend a church, synagogue, temple or mosque. The people in such a crowd may or may not know one another but they have come together because of their religious beliefs.

A religious crusader like Billy Graham the American Evangelist may attract as many as 100,000 people to come and listen to him at an open air meeting. Crowds of people go to the Vatican in Rome to catch a glimpse of the Pope because they regard him as the leader of their church. When Mahatma Gandhi (a great hero of poor people) was alive, large crowds in India always turned out to follow him and listen to him. Crowds of people often look to their leaders to guide them and inspire them.

Points for Thought & Discussion

A) Why do you think a sport like football is more liable to cause crowd trouble than other sports?

B) Not everyone would enjoy a holiday at a seaside resort. "Ugh! Those crowds!" they might say. What do you think is enjoyable and what is off-putting about being part of a large holiday crowd.

C) If a person keeps to herself others might say - 'She's not a good mixer. Keeps herself to herself.' Would you agree that you always have to be seen to be part of the crowd to be regarded as friendly or a good mixer?

D) Some people might say that T.V. has killed off a lot of leisure pursuits. However a parent might say - "I don't mind my boy or girl being in watching the telly all night. At least I know where they are and that they are safe." What do you think of these two opinions?

CROWDS ON THE MARCH

Crowds of people go on the march for many different reasons. The pages of history show us examples of this.

Crowds of men would be marching all over the world at a time of war. They would be marching to orders ; Go here! Fight there! Defend this city! Some men have written about this and said what an exciting time it was. Better than doing the same old job day in and day out. Being part of a large crowd, the friendship and fellowship of comrades, the excitement of battle, the taste of victory.

Others would disagree. 'What an ugly and horrifying experience war is' they would say. Millions dead and wounded. They would tell you to look at the crowded graveyards and then ask you - is war worth all this?

PEOPLE IN WARS

Wars lead to millions of people losing their homes and even for many to look for a new country to settle in. In the world war from 1939-1945 many Jews in Germany tried to find countries to live in to escape persecution and life in a concentration camp. People who flee their country because of war are called refugees.

In Kampuchea (formerly called Cambodia) the people put up with a major war for many years. During the war many people in Kampuchea were left homeless. When the war finally ended the people of Kampuchea did not suddenly find peace. Many found they were being forced to move from the city where they lived. If they did not wish to move to the countryside they tried to flee altogether.

For some this has meant putting out to sea in small boats and then being picked up by large ships from all over the world. However, these refugees have not always found countries willing to accept them and they often remain stranded on the large ships. Often with all this movement, Mums, Dads and children become completely separated, never meet each other again, and cannot know if the others are alive or dead.

So while there are still wars in our world there will always be refugees - crowds of men, women and children on the march trying to find somewhere they can live in peace. Theirs is no easy life because other countries may feel they cannot accept them - "We have enough to do to look after our own people" they might tell them.

Refugees, then, may be often on the march - often lonely and certainly never secure. Even if they reach safety, they have no land for growing their own food and so they have to rely on others to feed them.

WE PROTEST

Crowds of people may go on the march for what they feel are their rights. People in the world feel they have very important and valuable rights - the right to work, the right to a decent wage, the right to be treated as equal whatever their colour, religion or sex. The right to belong to a political party. However, they do not always find that these rights are allowed and they may go on the march to protest.

They may find that by showing their unity as a great crowd of people they make others take notice of what they are thinking. T.V. cameras may film their march and show it on the news and the newsreader may tell the viewers what it was all about.

Hundreds of thousands of people went on the march in America in the 1950's and 1960's to protest at the lack of civil rights for America's black people. At first this movement started in a small way and then through the leadership of the late Martin Luther King it became very large. When a crowd of over 200,000 marched to Washington the whole of America sat up and took notice. None more so than the President who saw to it that civil rights matters were speeded up in the Congress. This led to a gradual development and improvement of civil rights for America's black people.

Today crowds of people still go on the march to show their belief in some ideal or to protest about some great wrong. This may vary from marches connected with politics or conservation to a group of parents who feel a busy road is a danger to their children. However, not every country in the world allows crowds to go on the march and indeed some impose a very strict ban on such gatherings.

ME AND MY MATES

An important thing to remember is that a crowd on the march is made up of a lot of different individuals. These individuals may come from different homes and backgrounds but have come together to show that they feel strongly about the same issue. Perhaps they hope that in coming together they will persuade others to join them or even persuade their Government to do something about the matter.

Another aspect of crowds on the march is that a person might think he cannot do much on his own about changing what he sees as wrong. He may believe that in joining with a large crowd of others more notice will be taken of what he thinks.

Points for Thought & Discussion

A) What kind of issues would you feel strongly enough about to go on a march - apart from homework and school dinners!

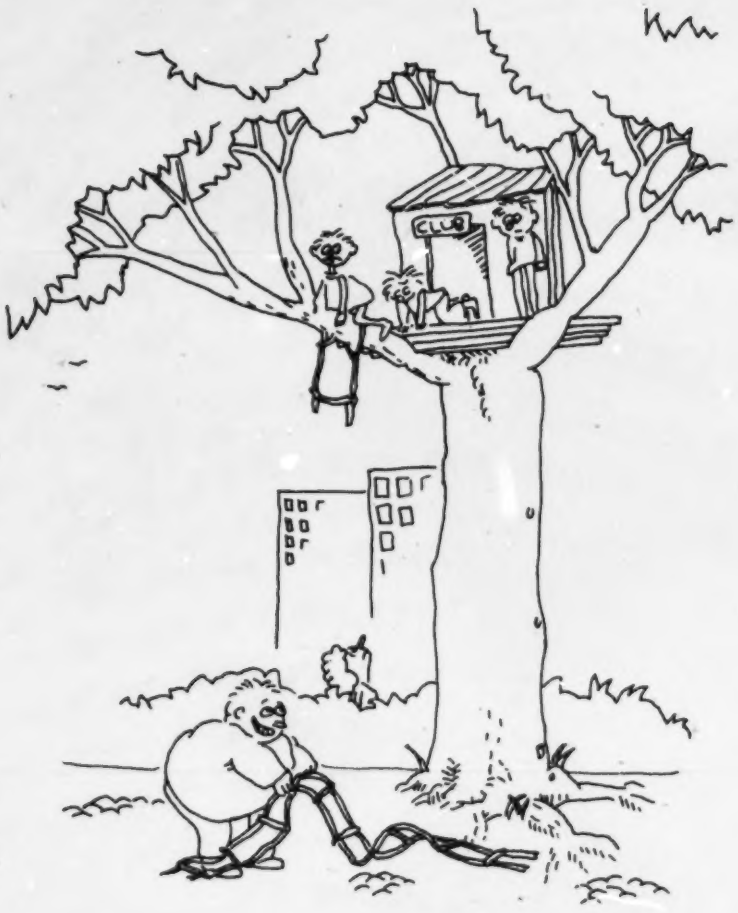
B) People who live in an area where marches take place might say that they should not be allowed. "They're only a nuisance - you can't park your car, it's difficult to do your shopping and you have to keep a closer watch on your children". If you were a marcher how would you answer these complaints?

C) Do you think the only way to make people take notice of your ideas is to join with a crowd who feel the same? Can you think of any way you yourself could try and get things changed?

D) For a crowd on the march to be successful do you feel it is important that it is televised and the march shown on the news?

E) Can you find out about more 'Crowds on the March' in history. Would you agree with their reasons for protest!

THE IN-CROWD

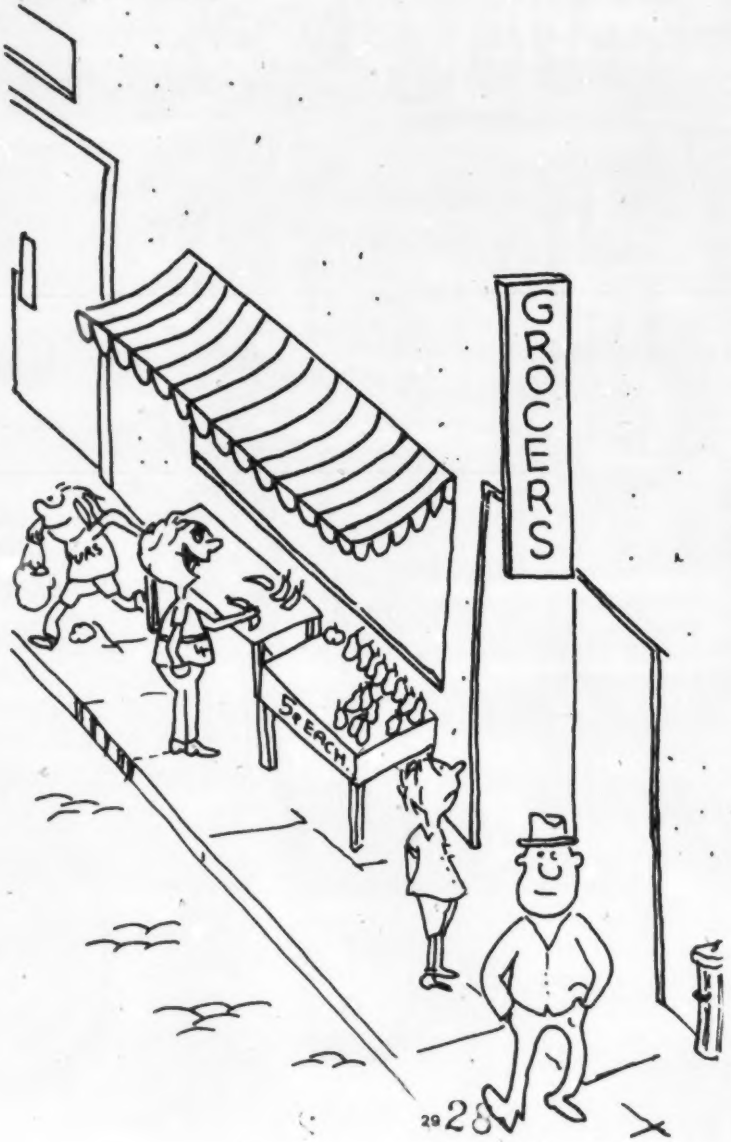


There is a song which has the title - 'I'm in with the in-crowd'. This means that the crowd, the best one, the one which is really with it is the one that the singer belongs to. He is no square, man!!

Children often have a special crowd of friends, especially when they are at school. They might refer to their friends as 'their crowd' or 'their gang'. This crowd or gang might be the one they spend most of their time with in and out of school. They may have 'gang huts' or 'tree houses' or 'secret dens'. They may have secret code-words and may go through marvellous ceremonies which make them blood brothers and sisters. They may have terrific fun playing knock-down-ginger, having snowfights and doing numerous other things that parents do not always appreciate! As they grow older they may grow out of dens and huts and be happy enough to be company for one another.

There is no doubt that this can be a great time in one's life. To have good friends, to feel part of a special crowd - to belong. The problem with such a crowd is that it may forget other children exist, too - other children in their class or street. Such children may not have a special crowd to belong to and this may be for different reasons. A child may be quiet or shy or have very different interests from the others. A child may be handicapped or may be a newcomer to the class or street. A child may simply have a different accent! Whatever the reasons, sometimes being part of the in-crowd can mean keeping others OUT. This may lead to other children feeling lonely, unwanted and very unhappy.

'Dare you to do that - and bet you you can't!'
'Bet you I can!'



When children are with their crowd of friends dares are often a great part of the life and fun of being together. However, as they become older the dares may become more serious and more difficult for an individual child to carry out. The crowd may decide that to be a member you have to prove that you can shop-lift, steal from the classroom, smoke or even beat someone up.

It may be easy to do any of these things and say - 'I'm only doing it to be part of the crowd.' It may be more difficult than this - wanting to be part of the crowd but not wanting to carry out the dare or the 'gang rule'. However, the individual might think like the football fan in court - "I don't usually behave like this. I seem to forget myself when I'm with the crowd". Other people might reply that one is old enough to have the courage to do what is right - even if one does lose friends.

But for the individual boy or girl concerned this is easier said than done - especially when it's one's crowd of friends which is at stake.

Points for Thought and Discussion

A) If you have a particular crowd of friends would you do anything to keep with them or would you think there are times when you shouldn't agree with or take part in what they are doing?

B) Is it up to each boy and girl to find their own crowd of friends or do you feel your crowd should be always willing to welcome others.

C) A girl whose Dad thought her school report could have been better said "The crowd I go round with don't work very hard. I'll do better next year". Do you think that was a fair excuse?

RESOURCES USED IN COMPILING THIS PUBLICATION

NEW INTERNATIONALIST (No. 64)
62a High Street, Wallingford, Oxon.

Research Papers From:
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU,
8 Wakley Street, Islington, London, N.

"THE KIDS DIDN'T NOTICE"
"NO PLACE TO GROW UP"
From SHELTER, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU.

FAMILIES IN CALCUTTA by Judith Holland
From: CHRISTIAN AID, P.O. Box No. 1, London SW9 8BH.

For RESOURCE MATERIAL ON THE DEVELOPING WORLD
write to: International Department, CEM, Chester House, Pages Lane
London N10 1PR.

Danny Sullivan would like to thank the following:

BERNIE McDERMOTT of Shelter's Education Department for his invaluable help with Chapter 3.

HELEN HOLDEN - Information Officer of National Children's Bureau - for research papers.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland) for photographs on Pages 11,12 & 25.

KEN DOVER (Stonehouse Cottage, Wishing Tree Road, St. Leonards, Sussex) - for the other photographs.

PETE KELLY (23 Pine Avenue, Gravesend, Kent) - for the cartoons.

HARRY UNDY, SUE TOMPKINS, CATHY SULLIVAN and ANNE KELLY for advice and encouragement.